

Dear Montgomery County Council:

I am from a fully vaccinated, boosted family, and am completely against the idea of the vaccine passport. It will only repoliticize the issue and garner economic burden on the vaccinated and unvaccinated alike. Omicron is rapidly retreating, and our county residents need healing both physically and emotionally.

I know the council is full of well-meaning and good-hearted people who want the best for our county residents. Otherwise, you wouldn't be serving in your capacity. But I ask you to please examine your motives in this. Is it truly a public health issue or are you being pushed into a public relations move that someone believes will provide political clout?

There are so many reasons this will end badly. I am sure you are hearing them from many, so I will limit mine to a couple I would experience personally.

This seems to be nothing but a punitive measure that will impact the 90% of us adults vaccinated as well. Why do 90% of us need to keep up with a passport to somehow make the 10% who are not vaccinated feel that they can't have "fun." Do you really think someone who is not vaccinated will now go get vaccinated because they can't sit down at Panera?

The onus is on front-line workers yet again. My high school son works part-time for ChickFilA. He would have to somehow check for passports (especially for all the parents trying to bring in young children to enjoy a chicken nugget meal). And when an irate parent decided to not vaccinate their five year old (which I get) demands to be let in, he gets to take that on? Or the unvaccinated person who says they are just running to the bathroom for a quick pop in, but then banks to the counter to order ... ChickFilA gets to handle all that?

And when Omicron subsides and family comes to visit, I can't treat them to any area restaurants? Perhaps they believe they have immunity from the COVID they got over (don't' they?), or again, choose not to vaccinate their young children. I get to argue with family who might visit?

Please do not set us up to tear each other apart again. We have more than reached herd immunity. Of those that are not vaccinated, just let them be. They either have natural immunity at this point, or it just is what it is. American has freedom of choice if it will not result in an emergency. I urge you to think of our county in a few weeks, and how cumbersome your actions will be.

Thank you for reading this.

Leanne McNamee